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Department of Toxic Substances Control

1011 North Grandview Avenue
Glendale, California 91201



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

January 19, 2006

CENTEX HOMES – STERLING PROPERTY WEST OF VALLEY CIRCLE AT ROSCOE BOULEVARD, WEST HILLS, CALIFORNIA

Dear Community Member:

On December 7, 2005, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) held a public meeting to present the Time Critical Removal Action Plan to remove areas of known perchlorate contamination in Dayton Creek prior to significant rainfall. Dayton Canyon Creek originates within the Boeing/Santa Susana Field Laboratory (Boeing/SSFL) facility and transverses the property prior to discharging into the flood control channel at Valley Circle Boulevard.

On January 1 and 2, 2006, approximately 3 inches of rain in the area caused a significant flow of water within the creek. It appears that in most areas of the creek the top 12 inches of soil was eroded by surface water currents. Since perchlorate is very soluble in water, DTSC was concerned that the rain may have caused the contamination to migrate. Therefore, on January 4 and 5, 2006, DTSC and All West, the environmental consultant for Centex Homes, collected soil samples from the areas identified for soil removal in the Time Critical Removal Action Plan. Surface water samples were also collected in areas where water enters and exits the Centex property. Overall, five surface water samples (three by DTSC and two by Allwest) and eighteen soil samples (nine by DTSC and nine by Allwest) were collected on these two days. The sample locations are included on the map attached to this letter.

Laboratory results received from Centex revealed that perchlorate was not detected in any of the samples collected. (See results on DTSC website). Samples independently collected and analyzed by DTSC were consistent with the Non-Detect results.

Since perchlorate was not detected in any of the surface samples collected in the creek area, the proposed time critical removal action is no longer necessary at this time. However, additional samples will be collected along the creek bed to determine if the perchlorate has migrated both vertically and laterally. This sampling will be done after the rainy season in late March or early April 2006. A supplemental sampling plan will be distributed for public review and comment. Meanwhile DTSC is continuing the site-wide investigation, including sampling up to the SSFL site boundary in accordance with the Preliminary Endangerment Assessment Workplan dated November 22, 2005 on the DTSC website. At the completion of the site wide investigation, a Removal Action Workplan (RAW) will be prepared and made available for public review.

DTSC would also like to clarify any misunderstandings concerning the source of perchlorate detected at the Centex property. We are aware of community concerns that DTSC may have already made a determination that the SSFL could not be the source of perchlorate contamination at the Centex Homes Property. We would like to emphasize that DTSC has not ruled out any potential source for the perchlorate contamination at the Site.

Much of the confusion appears to stem from sections of the Voluntary Cleanup Agreement (VCA), which references investigations and reports completed without DTSC oversight. Once the VCA between DTSC and Centex Homes was signed, DTSC reviewed the previous investigation results and determined that further investigation was necessary to characterize the Centex site. DTSC does consider SSFL a potential source of the contamination found on the Centex property and we have required additional sampling throughout the site, up to the SSFL boundary.

A draft Preliminary Endangerment Workplan (Sampling Plan) was prepared to describe proposed sampling activities on the Centex property. Upon receiving public comments, changes were made to the Plan as necessary. The Sampling Plan is a "living document" and we will continue to respond to comments and make necessary changes as information becomes available.

DTSC is committed to sharing all available information with the community. As soon as new information becomes available, DTSC is posting it on our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Projects/Centex.cfm. We encourage members of the public to contact us with any questions regarding the investigation and cleanup of the Site.

We wanted to convey these recent developments to you as soon as possible and we will be prepared to discuss the data received to date and provide the information that is currently available at the West Hills Neighborhood Council Public Safety Ad Hoc Committee concerned with Dayton Canyon meeting scheduled for January 24, 2006. If you have any questions, please call Jose Diaz at (818) 551-2171, Rita Kamat at (818) 551-2831 or Yvette LaDuke at (818) 551-2909.

Sincerely,



Sayareh Amir, Branch Chief
Southern California Cleanup Operations